



Annual Newsletter 2008 - issue 4

This year has been a year of real growth and change for KESHO; we will end the year with 112 students from Kilifi being sponsored; approximately double the number of students we were sponsoring this time last year. The need for help is enormous, Kilifi is one of the poorest districts in Kenya, so we continue to try raising funds from generous individuals, such as yourselves, and also through our own fundraising efforts. Please keep passing the word on to your friends....

Let us just mention a couple of student's and families who have been particularly happy to receive educational assistance this year. The Sulubu children, pictured below, before and after they received their school uniforms from KESHO and started nursery school in September of this year. They are a family of 8 children living with 2 additional members from their extended family and



regrettably both parents are unemployed. After visiting them at home, we realised they were in need of much assistance, and we've been donating clothes and are also looking into providing additional food for the whole family.

Queen Gari also deserves a mention. You may remember she received the KESHO prize for the best academic achievement last year and then worked voluntarily for the KESHO committee for a couple of months. While she awaits the requisite 2 years to receive her calling letter to take up a government sponsored place to study Law at University, KESHO secured a Gap Year placement for her in a UK School. Queen is extremely hardworking, motivated and serious about her future; the experience awarded her was well deserved. We're in regular contact and she's thoroughly enjoying the experience - although she's lamenting the cold weather!

Coming up with novel ideas for fundraising is never easy but this one is surely a winner. One of our sponsors, Julian drove a "tuk tuk" or autorickshaw right across India for KESHO! An awesome achievement in itself and one which also

raised enough funds to sponsor lots more primary students, including the Sulubu's mentioned earlier. Thank you so much!

We are also especially grateful for the generous and continued support and fundraising efforts of Johannes, Jean and Barry and the Rotary Clubs of Okehampton (UK), Vinnings (USA) and Kilifi. Your donations really help keep the ball rolling; allowing flexibility in the system so students can be sponsored at the time they need it. The Rotary Club project is now entering its second year and KESHO, as a Collaborative Institution of Rotary International, helps to administer the programme. We're looking forward to sponsoring 25 students in 2009. Take a look at their website: www.kilifikids.com



KESHO's coffee morning and jumble sale, while infinitely less exciting than Julian's adventure, did manage to raise Ksh80,000 (£500) which will be used to sponsor 2 more secondary students next year. We were entertained throughout by the Kilifi Jazz Band (MacKinlay - yes KESHO's administrator - on the trumpet, Alun on the guitar and Pete on the violin) plus the Jua Kali Choir (also including KESHO committee members) Lots of KESHO students, friends and families turned up to help; it was a real community event thanks to everyone's support.



The first KESHO Student Open Day was held last week. The theme for the day was "Making Choices for the Future" and there were many supporting activities organised by the committee and friends including games and discussions, creative writing, art and craft and drama/role play. Ruben, from World Learning, organised various skits and games generating much laughter and discussion; it was truly inspirational.

All in all, a really positive day. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it ended happily with a prize giving ceremony in which certificates and KESHO T-shirts were awarded to students for their various achievements during the year. They look great, don't they! We'll definitely be doing it again soon.



Let us just share some extracts from the creative writing desk at the Student Open Day.

"With education, success is at hand" Saumu.

"There is no lift in life, just take the stairs and continue with your education and you will see the fruits in the future." Cellestine.

"Usisahau kuwa, elimu ni ufungua wa maishd" translated "Do not forget, education is the key to life". Pili

We're really only able to assist more students because of the infinitely enthusiastic and energetic support of our Administrator, MacKinlay Mutsembi. The guidance, counselling and encouragement he gives to students and their parents is first class. Having been a recipient of sponsorship through his time at Moi University he understands the problems and challenges facing students and their families first hand and you can see in their faces how much the students respect him and view him as a positive role model in their own lives. No one ever leaves the office without a smile on their face!

Having an office, which we share with an orphan support group, Upendo, has also brought many benefits for students and the running of the charity. We are now much more accessible to existing students and the wider community which means there is more continuity in the support being offered. Fortunately, our administrative costs are paid by the Jovinas Trust, which means that 100% of all our donations can continue to go to the students themselves.

What are our targets for next year? Without losing site of the main focus of our activities, which is to sponsor more children through school and university, we are keen to offer more support to our graduates who may be seeking employment, wishing to undertake some vocational training, diplomas or certified courses. We also plan to extend the Gap Year Programme started this year, and to gradually start an apprenticeship scheme for students graduating from primary school (aged 15 years+) but who do not intend to proceed to secondary school. In the longer-term we would like to be able to offer more support to schools, especially those in the most remote parts of Kilifi District, for laboratory supplies and equipment, books or furniture and will endeavour to seek funds specifically for this purpose.

It's been a really great year thanks to the students, sponsors and voluntary efforts of the committee and friends. Thank you for all your support.

Happy New Year!